

# Hooking on to the New Wave of Agriculturists



## Clayton Keene



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Clayton Keene

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Dear Florida FFA Area IV members and advisors,

I am honored to introduce myself as one of your Florida FFA Area IV state officer candidates! My name is Clayton Keene and I am a proud member of the Lake Wales Sr. FFA chapter. I have been president of my home chapter this past year, the vice president for the Polk County FFA Federation team, and the District VIII president. I have been a part of the FFA for the past seven years. Thank you for your time and consideration in listening to me explain who and what I constitute.

I joined the FFA those many moons ago for two main reasons; I wanted to follow in the footsteps of many people who have helped me, and I wanted to be apart of the agriculture industry. My journey began with me raising market hogs for my county fair. I then moved on to beef production and I knew that I wanted to create a career here. I started with a heifer that was given to me. I have since then expanded my herd to six head with hopes of expanding and getting students involved in the show ring and agriculture industry as a whole. I got to experience the good and the bad, however I was able to push through and see what my purpose was as an FFA member.

Ever since I first put on that blue and gold jacket, I knew that I was a part of a family, just as many before me. I knew that I wanted to be able to share the experiences that have shaped me into the man I am today with many other students. I am a firm believer that the FFA is a home for anyone and everyone. No matter the background of individual, the FFA can be that home for anyone willing to be apart of it. At the end of the day, we are all the future of agriculture. The agriculture industry is also very diverse. We need farmers to have a future in agriculture, but we also need agricultural mechanics, agriculture scientists, or even agriculture teachers. I am dedicated to making all members aware of these ideas, especially in Area IV. I encourage all members to share their differences with each other, so that way we can grow as an organization and as an Industry!

I would love to get to speak to each and every one of you, so please do not hesitate to reach out to me! I would be happy to talk to you all in person. I can also call or zoom if need be. I look forward to seeing you all at the 97<sup>th</sup> Florida FFA State Convention and Expo where we can "Inspire the next wave of agriculturists"!

Sincerely,

Clayton Keene

Florida FFA Area IV State Officer Candidate

# Clayton Keene

## Florida FFA Area IV State Officer Candidate

### Career Objective:

I will be attending ABAC university to major in Agribusiness management and beef production. I will continue inspiring students to get in the agriculture industry by opening a feed store and running my cow-calf operation for kids in the show ring!

### FFA Contests and Awards

- 2025 Dillon Webb Scholarship recipient
- Star Greenhand award- 2022
- FFA Creed-2021,2022 State Champion and bronze finalist Nationally
- Service Learning Proficiency-2024 State champion and Silver finalist nationally
- Farm Bureau Speech Contest- 2023 1<sup>st</sup> in county, 2024 2<sup>nd</sup> in county
- Aquaculture-2025
- Ag Sales-2025, 6<sup>th</sup> in state
- Ag Mechanics-2025
- Livestock Judging-2019,2020,2021,2022,2023,2024, 2025
- HS Prepared Public Speaking- 2025
- HS Extemporaneous Public Speaking- 2023, 2024
- Opening and Closing Ceremonies- 2019, 2020

### Supervised Agriculture Experiences

- Service Learning
  - Casting Lures For Cures: 2018- Present
- Beef Production Entrepreneurship
  - Market Steers: 2023-2025
  - Breeding production: 2019- Present (Keene Dream Cattle Co.)
- Hog Production Entrepreneurship
  - Market hogs 2018-2025

### Education

- Lake Wales High School| 3.41 GPA
- Polk State University| 2021-2022
- Warner University| 2022-2025

### School/Community Activities

- Lakeland Junior Hawg Hunters Bass Fishing Team President| 2020-2025
- National Pediatric Cancer Foundation Representative| 2019-Present
- Bird Dog Boats| 2021-2023
- Slauncher Bait Co. CEO| 2021-Present
- Keene Dream Cattle Co. Owner| 2024-Present
- PCYF Representative| 2020- Present

### Certifications


- AEST Agritechnology Specialist
- AEST Agriculture Associate
- AEST Agriculture Systems Associate

### Work Experiences:

- Eli's Western Wear- 2022-2023
- FA Cattle Co.- 2023-2024
- F1 Farm and Feed- 2024-2025
- Rowdy Cattle Co.- 2025-Present

### FFA Officer and Leadership Experiences

- 2024-2025 Lake Wales Sr. President
- 2024-2025 District VIII President
- 2024-2025 Polk County Federation Officer
- 2025 FFA SLS Conference
- 2025 ABAC Screening Process
- 2025 Warner Screening Practice
- 2025 Chapter Presidents Conference
- 2025 Florida FFA State Officer Candidate Workshop
- 2024 National Convention
- 2024-2025 COLT Conference
- 2023-2024 Lake Wales Sr. Sentinel
- 2023-2024 Polk County Federation Officer
- 2022-2023 Lake Wales Sr. Treasurer
- 2021-2022 Lake Wales Sr. Historian
- 2022 State FFA convention Courtesy Corps

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